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THE INTELLIGENCER.

WHEELING, OCTOBER 7, 1899.

The Substance and the Shadow.

At the age of sixty-two years Admiral Dewey is vigorous in health, and is likely to live at least another score of years. In his position in the highest place in the naval service with a large salary, he is enabled to enjoy the remainder of his life, even in retirement at the full pay of his rank. There is no restriction of his personal freedom. He is at the height of fame, and has a place in the respect and love of his fellow citizens, and will never do anything which would weaken that position.

The Washington Evening Star notes that, in the event of Admiral Dewey's elevation to the presidency there would be, in all probability, an immediate clash between him and the managers of the Democratic party which had used him and his unbounded popularity for their own purposes.

Such a difference, says the Star, would cause the four years of that term of office to be marked by a bitter struggle. The sailor President's hours would be anxious ones, his responsibilities tremendous, the public demands upon him insistent, and his opportunities for constructive work in line with the popular wishes limited. Having been borne into the white house on a wave of enthusiasm, he would soon find himself handicapped by a lack of a coherent party with a distinctive policy, and perhaps in the last two years of his term with an antagonistic "Congress on his hands," the once popular admiral would find his prestige waning and his popularity vanishing. The Star continues:

The New York World, which has been foremost in the foolish effort to force Admiral Dewey into the arena as a candidate, has even the same day by announcing that after the election of Dewey in 1900 the programme should be to permit Dewey to reach the white house in 1904, probably on the assumption that the Nebraska candidate would be chosen by a vote in convention next year and therefore more willing in 1904 to bend himself to the purposes of expediency than he would be of thinking. In other words, having used the admiral for a temporary end, it would then turn its back on him, and he is not likely to "enact for the world's entertainment the familiar role of the dog grasping at the shadow in the mouth of the bone which he held in his paw."

The Christian Science War.
A few days since the Intelligencer referred to the war that is being waged by the reputable physicians of the state against the violators of the state medical laws, with a special reference to the case at Parkersburg of an indictment against a Christian Science and Osteopathy. A letter from a Parkersburg friend refers to the action of a committee to the action of a committee to the last meeting of the State Medical Society, to prosecute all persons violating or attempting to violate the medical laws of the state. Our correspondent reports that the physicians of the state have been unjustly accused concerning this and similar steps, whereas they have never made any direct fight against any system of medicine, their desire only being to prosecute all who violate the medical laws irrespective of the school they practice.

The indictment brought at Parkersburg is intended to be a test case, and should it be lost steps will be made to have the legislature amend the law. The whole state will look with interest for the result, and legislators and those contemplating running for the next legislature will do well to watch close the proceedings.

If the trial proves successful, the representatives of the State Medical Society should proceed directly with the prosecution of every individual who can be found engaged in the practices of these evils that are causing more deaths than they avert.

The Intelligencer, again, would suggest that the profession in Wheeling keep an eye for evidence against those who are engaging in the business in this city. They openly advertise themselves with signs on the doors of their headquarters.

With reference to this subject, the current issue of the Philadelphia Medical Journal says: "Every death and case of illness is a most burdensome expense upon the community. And yet, in the face of the simplest common sense and the great instinct of self-preservation, we find the most mandatory laws as to medical practice

ignored, and the people almost as a body rushing pell-mell into the worship of the most shameless ignorance. Faith cure, Christian science, osteopathy, and all the rest, are building churches, dominating legislatures, and their adherents are swarming with wild and alarming enthusiasm, reckless of the baldest dictates of acquired experience and logic."

The Journal continues: "Every medical organization should go to work in downright earnest. If the community does not act, then in its interest we must act."

September Fire Loss.

The New York Journal of Commerce has a summary of the fire losses for the past nine months, that for September being \$12,735,800. The total losses for the first nine months of 1899, 1898, and 1899, are noted as follows: From January to September, inclusive, in 1897, the losses footed up to \$50,415,700; for the same period in 1898 the losses were \$39,608,650. It may be noted that the 1899 losses so far exceed those of the same months of 1898 by over \$10,000,000, and those of the first nine months of 1897 by over \$19,000,000.

During the month of September there were 179 fires, of a greater destructiveness than \$100,000 each. The Journal of Commerce publishes a detailed list of these fires on its insurance page, and they may be classified as follows:

\$100,000 to \$250,000	26
250,000 to \$500,000	23
500,000 to \$1,000,000	25
1,000,000 to \$2,500,000	18
2,500,000 to \$5,000,000	12
5,000,000 to \$10,000,000	2
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